

Timothy Sullivan  
Student – University of Connecticut  
Hometown: Vernon, CT

Members of the General Assembly,

My name is Timothy Sullivan. I study political science and economics at the University of Connecticut. As a resident of Vernon, Connecticut, I have grown up right next door to Uconn. I played youth hockey on campus at the Freitas Ice Forum, visited the campus on school field trips, attended Uconn basketball games. As the state's Flagship University, Uconn contributes significantly to the culture of Connecticut. The projected budget cuts to the University would be detrimental to its mission of providing affordable education to the citizens of Connecticut. I am a first generation college student. My parents have worked tirelessly to provide me with opportunities they never had. I chose to attend the University of Connecticut, because of its affordability. Uconn was the school that didn't threaten to bury me with crippling debt, yet provide me with a first class education. That promise is quickly slipping away from both current and prospective students of the University. Our budget deficits threaten to shift the burden to the students at the cost of increased tuition, decreased faculty resources, and larger class sizes. I understand the state is facing serious financial issues. I truly believe that balancing the state's budget and lowering the tax burden on the people of Connecticut should be a priority of the body. However, I know that the University of Connecticut is critically important to the long run health of the state and to economic development. I come before you today to ask that you honor your commitment to higher education. I ask that you keep your promise to invest in the future of the state. Thank you.